



(Continued from page 1)

or whatever. G-d forbid another woman to try to take "their" machine away when they are gone for more nickles. But all that counts is how fast they can crank the handle and wait with gasping hope that their ship will come in. The town has a lot of funny stories to tell. We know of an eccentric multi-millionaire that does nothing anymore but gamble. He is known as a very high roller in some of the plush strip joints. His name is Hogan and he attracts a crowd wherever he gambles. Hogan prefers craps or roulette. His reported income exceeds 30 thousand a month and he probably gambles every bit of it away each month. His method of startling gambling bosses and spectators alike is as follows. He will walk into a casino with a suitcase full of black chips (100 dollar chips) from a rival club. Every gambling pit boss in town knows him and they welcome his arrival on the scene. He will start at roulette for example with 50 black chips on the board. This represents a \$5,000 wager on the spin of a ball. His limit is usually raised to his liking and he will be allowed to put \$300 on each number he wishes. When one of his numbers hit, he takes out a referee whistle and blows it louder than you'd hear in a basketball game. This draws the crowd and also the gambling bosses right to his game. His \$300 wager has grown to a payoff of \$10,500. Sitting in front of him will be about \$50,000 in chips and \$100 bills. Each time he hits a number or makes a pass, the whistle comes shrilling throughout the casino. Two and three hundred people will stand around watching this nut

gamble away his cash. At a time when no one thinks he cares about the crowd, he will turn to the spectators and shout, "Is everyone having fun?" The man is a kook but lovable because in his own way he stays in Vegas for the same reason everyone visits our town. The shot to take a little juice out of life for hardly no effort.

Hogan has more money than most people but it's all relative. A guy coming into this town with the hopes of busting a casino has a very, very tough road ahead of him. The games are heavily rigged for the house. Roulette stands you a 15% chance of loss. Twenty-one is down to about 8% against and craps about 3%. These percentages rule only when you play the game "by the book" taking advantage of every possible leverage permitted. Taking the proper odds at craps, doubling down and taking insurance at twenty one and money management and building a bankroll on a hot streak. Possibly one percent of the people who come into town know even the fundamentals of the game they participate in. Yet they will lose wads of money before they know what hits them. Why? Because gambling is a way of life. We join the human race on a billion to one shot. Each day we take a chance in an auto or airplane or walking down the stairs of our home. Business is a gamble. Love is a gamble and marriage, child raising, the stock market and even putting your money in a bank is a small gamble. Las Vegas is a town that lets you turn your hidden desires into reality. You can booze it up, see a top performer and make a wager. Who could want any more for vacation fun. We have a selected town and a pretty good one at that. Come visit us and see if Vegas doesn't turn you on.

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